## CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Edward A. Flynn, Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 12, 2009 NEWS RELEASE #09-03 CONTACT: ANNE E. SCHWARTZ PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER 414-935-7209

## MILWAUKEE POLICE HONOR SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

The State of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Police Department are honoring the work of school crossing guards the week of January 12-16, 2009.

The Milwaukee Police Department's School Crossing Guards are a dedicated group of diverse people who ensure that Milwaukee's children walk safely to and from school each day. Often working in less-than-ideal elements, school crossing guards demonstrate safe street crossing behaviors and reinforce the importance of traffic and pedestrian safety to our children.

Since 1950, the city of Milwaukee has coordinated the citywide School Crossing Guard Program. During the inception of this program, crossing guards were only assigned to crossings at Milwaukee Public Schools. With the expansion of other educational institutions in Milwaukee, school crossings are now also provided at alternative, charter and parochial schools. Currently, the Milwaukee Police Department Safety Division provides school crossing guards for 128 schools at 200 intersections throughout the city of Milwaukee. The department employs 181 regular school crossing guards and 32 substitutes, serving about 14,942 students.

The Milwaukee Police Department will honor its School Crossing Guards during a special Recognition Program on Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 10 a.m. at the Milwaukee Safety Academy, 6680 N. Teutonia Avenue.

Media are encouraged to cover this event and to come and interview these dedicated workers.